

# THE RADICAL MOTHERS Voice

Vol. II



It's time that we made this community aware of our struggle. We can stand together and make our voices heard!

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## Moms: 3rd Class Citizens

**T**he Results of a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study show how little working mothers are valued. Its findings for women aged 27 to 33 show that women without children earned 88 cents to the dollar compared to men. But women with children made only 50 cents to the dollar.



# Working women are working longer hours for lower pay.

This zine is dedicated to all the people in my community who have begun leading in the support of MOMS

Thank you for listening! For raising your awareness and the awareness of those around you!

Sherry Milam - "THE RADICAL MOTHERS VOICE."

mothers are more than

twice as likely to work full time, year-round as they were in 1970. AND 1/3 to 1/2 of OUR INCOME goes to pay for childcare so full time working moms are still earning a sub-minimum wage

Part-time work is not always voluntary for women. Twelve percent of all women working part time do so because they can't find full-time jobs.

What this means for working class MOMS, is that we must work more than one job OR go on welfare to make ends meet

Part-time also means employers don't have to provide health benefits for MOMS OR THEIR KIDS.

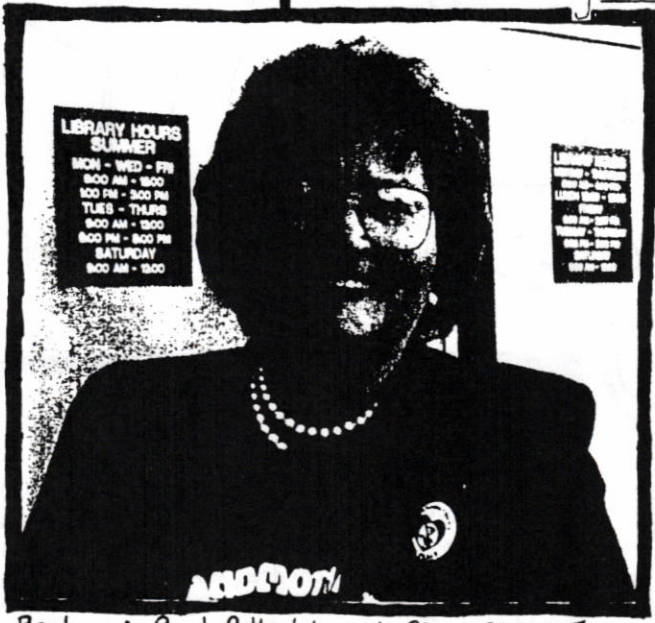


Women earn less than men in most jobs



Grandmothers For Peace:

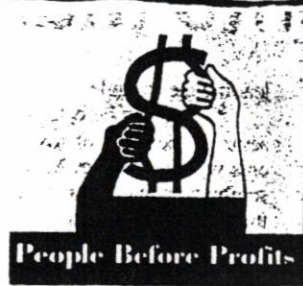
Barbara Wiedberg



"What kind of Nation are we? when the countries all over the world feed the military while the women and children are starving with no child care or medical care.

Poverty is criminal in a country so rich!

Unfair to the children



Barbara in front of the Library in Sierra Blanca Tx. The site chosen to be this Nations next Nuclear Dump! (WELL ONE OF them anyway.)

Two popular beliefs endure about Texas's poor. One is that most poor people don't work and don't want to work. The second is that work will raise families out of poverty. these beliefs are only myths. Despite the presence of one or more working adults in their households, 3.3 million Texans live in poverty. Wages, not welfare, account for the bulk of income received by the vast majority of Texas' poor families.



# WE AS CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

(your attention and support  
IS NEEDED!)

We as children; Have the right:  
To be happy and to be treated with compassion in this world!

This means:

That no one will laugh at us, or hurt our feelings, as we struggle to learn, everyday, things that are new to us.

We as children; Have the right:  
To be ourselves in this world!

This means:

That no one will treat us unfairly because we are  
of color or white  
rich or poor  
fat or thin  
tall or short  
differently-abled  
boys or girls

We as children; Have the right:  
To be safe in this world!

This means:

That no one will  
hit us  
kick us  
push us  
pinch us  
hurt us

or treat our bodies dis-respectfully ever!

We as children; Have the right:  
To hear and be heard in this world!

This means:

That no one will  
yell or scream, shout or verbally abuse us in anyway

We as children; Have the right:  
To learn about ourselves and others in this world!

This means:

That we are free to express our feelings and opinions without being interrupted or punished for doing so!



We as children have the right: To a loving environment

This includes, Nutritional food, and medical care to keep us healthy, safe daycare, well thought out education, housing, clothes, and enough money for all of us to survive without struggle

This Means: that our parents, queer, straight or single  
Deserve the support and resources it takes to ensure OUR CIVIL RIGHTS!



# THE FACE OF POVERTY IN AMERICA

**RACISM**  
**CLASSISM**

**15**  
**Violence!**

**Society and Abuse**

Poverty, unemployment, social isolation of families, transient life-style, lack of recognition of children's rights, cultural acceptance of corporal punishment, and limited help for families in crisis are environmental factors that correlate highly with abuse. (30) The most frequently reported environmental stress for abusive and neglectful families is their lower socioeconomic status.

**CONTRARY** **To Popular Belief** **Most poor families rely on work, not welfare for most of their income. On average, more than 70 percent of a majority of poor families with children receive their income from wages and salaries.**

Poor families are likely to be large, live in rural and southern regions of the United States, be headed by women, and be of an ethnic minority.

**Stereotyping BULLSHIT**

**POVERTY PERMEATES AMERICA**  
**IT IS EVERYWHERE, both urban and rural, North & South**  
**WHITE PEOPLE ARE ALSO POOR; yet poverty is meant to be a racist institution**  
**& sexist institution**  
**People are NOT poor because they are "stupid" or "LAZY"**

1 THAT WELFARE REFORM BILL I SIGNED WAS SERIOUSLY FLAWED.

2 IT WILL BE DEVASTATING TO YOU AND YOUR KIDS.

3 BUT DON'T WORRY... I'M GOING TO EASE YOUR SUFFERING!

4 HERE'S A TRISCUIT.

3 BUT DON'T WORRY... I'M GOING TO EASE YOUR SUFFERING!



## Welfare "Reform" Did Not Happen Overnight

- 1993 - 1995: State Level Welfare Reforms Sweep Across the Country Fueled by Loosened Federal Waiver Authority.
- 1995: 74th Legislative Session, Texas Passes Major Welfare Changes in HB 1863, includes Workforce Consolidation.
- 1996: Federal Welfare Overhaul with the passage of The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) Effective August 22, 1996.
- 1997: 75th Legislative Session, Texas Tinkers With Welfare Policy, Allocates New Welfare Block Grant and Confronts Work Requirements.
- 1997: Federal Budget Reconciliation Act of 1997 includes new money for job-training

## Texas "Reformed" Welfare Before the U.S. Congress Did

- HB 1863, passed by the 74th Legislature (1995), was Texas' major welfare "reform"
- It made significant changes to welfare
  - Time Limits
  - Work Requirements
  - Personal Responsibility Agreement
  - Eligibility Changes
  - Pilot Projects
- It consolidated Job Training Programs
  - Create Texas Workforce Commission
  - Authorize Local Workforce Boards
  - Block Grant funds to Local Boards
  - Establish one-stop Career Ctrs, Uniform Applications
  - Child Care moved to TWC

## Characteristics of Families Receiving Welfare in Texas

- Welfare families are very poor
  - To initially qualify, a family of three can earn no more than \$4,824/year
  - A family can qualify for a maximum of \$2,256/year (\$188/month) in assistance (Partnership for Independence, 1995)
- Welfare families have young children (Feb. 1997 data, DHS at a Glance)
  - 45 percent of the children receiving welfare are under age six
  - 63 percent of welfare families include at least one child this young
- Welfare families are small
  - The average welfare family has 2.7 persons\* (Feb. 1997 data, DHS at a Glance)
  - Only 10 percent of welfare families have three or more children (Aug. 1996 data, Demographic Profile of AFDC Caretakers, w/ calculations by CPPP)
- Anecdotally, we know welfare families often don't have support systems

## Demographics of Texas' Welfare Families

- 217,000 Texas families receive welfare (Feb. 1997 data, DHS at a Glance)
  - totals 607,000 individuals
  - about 3 percent of all Texans
- Marital status (Feb. 1997 data, DHS at a Glance, w/ calculations by CPPP)
  - 26 percent of welfare families are headed by a woman
  - 7 percent include two parents
  - In two-parent cases, either adult can be listed as the head of household; for this reason, these two figures add to more than 100 percent.)
- Race and Ethnicity (Aug. 1996 data, Demographic Profile of AFDC Caretakers, w/ calculations by CPPP)
  - 51 percent--35,089--are Anglo
  - 31 percent--47,000--are Black
  - 45 percent--68,600--are Hispanic
  - 13 percent are Asian, Asian or other races

VIOLENCE IS NOT INHISTINCT ITS A CULTURAL STYLE

Instead of focusing on getting rid of poverty, the Govt. & State put in what I call immediate gratification laws. Police-ing & Punish-ing poor moms; blaming them for abuse CONTINUING the stereo-types of poor people as violent, abusive people who don't love or care for their children. (under these laws) Children are taken away from loving homes because the parents are poor or they abuse them.

In addition to low socioeconomic status, another environmental stress that is highly correlated with abuse is unemployment. (33) Perhaps the feelings of having lost control over one's resources is relieved by using force against powerless children. In psychology this behavior is called catharsis, which is the alleviation of unconscious fears, drives, or conflicts by giving them conscious expression. Or perhaps, when children are abused, the parent is projecting the blame on them for unemployment. "If I didn't have a family to support I wouldn't be in this predicament."

Abuse in society is not new. Roman fathers were legally permitted to kill their unwanted children. In earlier centuries, children were sometimes crippled and mutilated to make them more pathetic and, therefore, more profitable beggars. It was common to flog children in colonial times to break their wills. Until the late 1800s it was not uncommon to find dead or abandoned infants on city streets. (34)

Until recently, children have had little legal protection. In fact, the first child-battering case brought to the courts in this country was in the 1860s. A child named Mary Ellen had been starved and kept in chains. Since there were no laws to prohibit mistreatment of children, the case was tried under regulations prohibiting cruelty to animals. In the 1960s states began to pass laws, in various forms, requiring that doctors report cases of child abuse to police and social agencies, while granting them immunity from lawsuits for making such reports. People as violent, abusive people who don't love or care for their children. (under these laws) Children are taken away from loving homes because the parents are poor or they abuse them.

When taken out of their homes the majority don't get true help and become a number, a statistic! KIDS ARE ABUSED & ISOLATION ARE THE PROBLEM

## Texas Compared to the Nation

- Texas provides welfare to far fewer poor families than other states (Center for the Study of Human Resources)
  - In Texas, only 40 percent of poor families receive welfare
  - In the U.S. as a whole, 80 percent do
- Texas' cash assistance grant is much lower than that of other states (1996 Green Book)
  - Only three states provide lower monthly grants
  - Seven states have grants that are three times as large as Texas
- Texas has done a much worse job than other states in ensuring its cash assistance grant keeps pace w/ inflation (1996 Green Book)
  - In inflation-adjusted dollars, Texas' grant has lost 68 percent of its buying power since 1970
  - No other state's grant lost as much buying power as Texas



# GET INVOLVED CONTRADICT ISOLATION ITS AS EASY

DONT

JUST SUPPORT

This system is not prepared to <sup>SP? ↓</sup>eradicate poverty. In fact, it has <sup>(84)</sup>absolutely NO wish too! WE are the successful class of workers. Our

suffering and survival is not really a concern <sup>(as far as cheap labor is concerned)</sup> (I mean, you know poor people breed like rabbits) Our desperation insures that we have to continue working for "the Man". Martin Luther King, pointed out in his book Chaos or Community that (in the late 60's) it would cost 3 trillion bucks to end the impoverished life style in America. Stating that: IF the rich were willing to get rich at a slower rate, the poor could survive well!

OBVIOUSLY they are not! Humanness has been forgotten, the system is not even close to humanity. LAWS FOR THE PEOPLE are created in pretense to keep the oppressed at bay. Appeasing them SO they will stop fighting and fall again into the roles that allow the owning class to maintain WEALTH! This is a very well organized system, based on violence, isolation and fear as a means of keeping itself intact

ALL PEOPLE SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF AMERICA

Moms always being the bottom rung on the social ladder

The focus on the deficit and the sexist and racist attacks on poor women and children are smokescreens for the real dynamic in national budget politics: using the federal budget to continue a giant transfer of wealth from low-income, middle class and working people to the wealthy and corporations

This society holds steady fast to the belief that MOMS and kids should be seen & not heard, There are no safe places for my child to be, to interact with out obviously "annoying" other adults who are quickly willing to judge my parenting, ignore or stifle my child's natural expression. People have no clue (the majority, anyhow) of how to treat children or MOMS with respect

Programs that benefit women and their families are being slashed while the Pentagon, the wealthy and the corporations are getting richer.

Our elected representatives are attempting to balance the budget on the backs of women, people of color, and children.

These policies have eroded the economic viability of most women and increased the stress in their lives. Most of the community and family work women do is vital to the US economy but is not paid

Politicians rely on women to be the silent shock absorbers as they cut public services and programs.



POOR MOMS WE-R

EVERYWHERE

DONT SUPPORT A SYSTEM BUILT ON THE BACKS OF MOMS & KIDS GET PARENTS AND KIDS IN YOUR LIFE, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS TAKE ACTION

IF YOU SEE A MOM STRUGGLING HELP





ALL MOTHERS ARE ISOLATED, MIDDLE CLASS MOMS ARE ISOLATED  
EVEN MORE THAN POOR MOTHERS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO  
RELY ON COMMUNITY OR FAMILY  
TO SURVIVE

♂ CAPITALISM THRIVES ON ISOLATION ♀

## It Takes A Whole Baby Product And Toy Industry To Raise A Child

OR HOW WE BEGIN BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION  
(Good parenting means owning the right stuff) OF CONSUMERS!  
"MIDDLE-CLASS" STYLE

By Cynthia Peters

**B**uy a copy of the *Prenatal Classroom* and learn how to give your fetus a jumpstart on learning. Have a "Babyscapes Video Mobile" installed in your baby's crib to ensure proper infant stimulation during the crucial first year. If baby gets over-stimulated, simply switch on the soothing white noise machine instead. Get your toddler interested in food by serving it in a plate shaped like an airplane (cockpit holds the cheerios; tail holds the drink cup; fork and spoon look like miniature planes), or a musical plastic train that includes teething rings, snack bowls and bottle holder—all the while playing, "I've been working on the railroad." Feel more in control of your environment and your child's life by purchasing just the right safety devices, such as the specially designed cover for their seat in the grocery cart to shield them from germs. Purchase the best "feeding system," the right education, the most stimulating toys, and organic cotton bed sheets, and your child will be happy, healthy, and brighter than other children.

From your first moments as a parent, you will be inundated with the idea that well-being for you and your child can be purchased. Good parenting is a matter of owning the right products. The human act of parenting has been harvested for profit, and the harvest has been bountiful. In the last 30 years, for example, Toys R Us has grown from a 4-store \$12 million a year operation to a 540-store \$6.7 billion one. (*Playthings*, September 1993.) Meanwhile,

many parents struggle in isolation to do the right thing by their offspring, scrutinizing product catalogs and magazines (essentially ad conduits) for solutions to their parenting dilemmas.

Mothers in particular are deluged with advice and product information from the experts about how to properly raise our children. We are saddled with responsibility for every element of their well-being. Shari Thurer, in the *Myth of Motherhood*, argues that in the last 40 years when more and more (particularly white) women have joined the work force (both out of need and desire), and since feminism has allowed many women to pursue life outside the private sphere, so the demands on mothers have reached an all-time high. The idea that a baby's education begins in the cradle was popularized in the post-WW II baby boom, and provided a huge market for just the right stimulating toy at every stage of development. It also provided experts with ample opportunity to micro-manage every element of mother's behavior toward her child. The privatization of child-rearing is reduced not just to families but to the mother-child relationship in particular. Mothers are isolated, then they are hit hard by the marketers for the toy and baby product industry.

Just as the marketplace wants you to think sports shoes will make your life more cutting edge, beer will make you younger, and Coke is not just a bubbly brown liquid but "the Real Thing," so the right parenting gadgets—along with their portable ver-

THIS IS HOW AMERICA TARGET'S &  
MAINTAINS THE "MIDDLE CLASS" BUBBLE



sions—will make you a good parent. Indeed, many of the gadgets are useful and sensible to own. As a parent I know that much of what is available in the marketplace can facilitate the work of raising children. Products can bring enjoyment, educational value, or ease daily life with kids. In this day and age, while moms and dads largely struggle in isolation from each other and from community support systems that once might have been there to relieve self-doubt and offer guidance, we shop for our parenting supports. In doing so, we pass consumption values onto our children, training them in the ways of a throwaway society and readying them to be little shoppers who believe that products determine our identities and are capable of solving our problems. We also buy into an ideology that at best helps us rationalize a work-a-day world that is extremely unfriendly to children and families, and that at worst steers us away from seeing and protesting structural inequality, including the global impoverishment of children.

### *The Crib As A Form Of Social Control*

Cribs have not always been considered the most essential piece of baby furniture you could own. Even today, in most countries (particularly in the Third World), babies do not sleep in cribs. Throughout human history, babies have, for the vast majority of the time, slept with their parents. In this current historical-economic juncture, however, sharing sleep goes decidedly against the ideological grain. In the early 20th century, health workers "zealously handed out banana boxes...to serve as cradles in order to try and stamp out the habit of mothers and babies sleeping together." (*The Politics of Breastfeeding*.) As babies graduated from the banana box to the crib (mattress sold separately), a whole baby product industry, along with the attendant baby advice industry, was spawned.

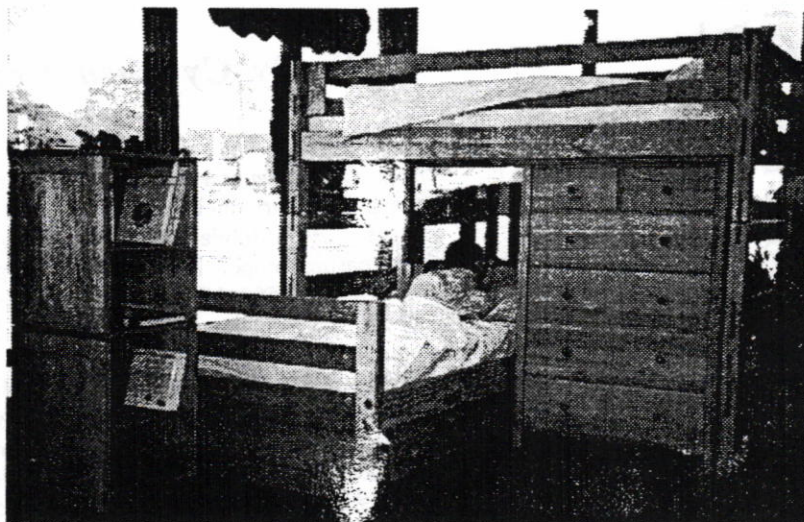
Think of all the things you did not need to own in the pre-banana box days. First, you wouldn't need the crib—the stay-at-home version or the portable one. Nor would you need the additional room (or rooms if you have more children) in which to put the crib, along with its matching changing table. You wouldn't need the bassinet that preceded the crib nor the toddler bed that comes after. You wouldn't need the dancing bear mobiles or the little machine that simulates flashing TV images to keep your baby entertained while she is alone in her crib down the hall. You wouldn't need the white noise machine, the pacifier, the special blanket and array of blank-faced

## ECOBABY

Spring '97

SAVE THIS  
CATALOG

Visit us at our new store in **San Diego**. Stop by 1475 N Cuyamaca in El Cajon. 10-5 M-Sat



### ORGANIC and natural fiber clothes, bedding, and diapering products.

Clothing features Tagua Nut buttons & low-impact dyes. Hundreds of environmental alternatives for your family. New! Aubrey Organics, Healthy Times, and Thomas the Tank Wooden Railroad System.

Now! BABYPLUS Prenatal Learning Device.

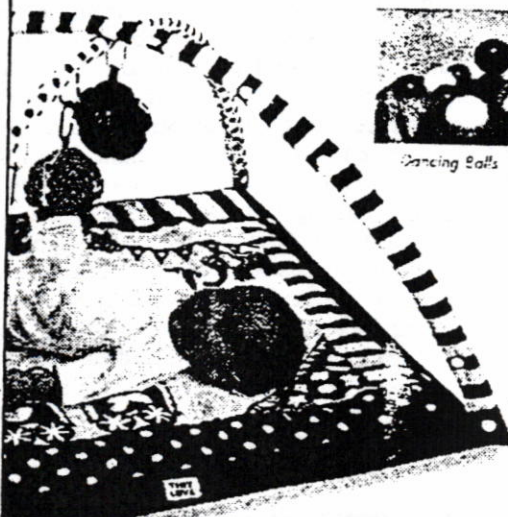
#### ALL-IN-ONE DIAPER




ADVERTISERS AND EXPERTS DIRECT THE MAJORITY OF THEIR EFFORTS AT THE MOST ISOLATED, VULNERABLE GROUP OF CONSUMERS MOMS, DOING THE BEST THEY CAN WITH NOT MUCH SUPPORT OUTSIDE OF BEING FINANCIALLY STABLE



**3-D Activity Gym #08820028 \$44.95**




**Fit a Shape Books #09910001 \$3.95 each**

Flip Flip

**INFANT STIMULATION VIDEO AND BOOKLET**



**VIDEO MOBILE**

**Babyscapes™ Video Mobile**

First of its kind! Video Mobile is designed to assist parents in achieving proper infant stimulation during the crucial first year of development. The tape contains computer generated black, white and red geometric shapes which have been proven to be clearly recognizable to infants. Classical music accompanies the images. An infant stimulation booklet, written by leading child development experts, is included.

**Babyscapes™ Video Mobile 30 min. VHS #09850011 \$21.95**

stuffed animals, or the blanket with the vibrator to soothe your baby (because you're not there, because you've been told that it's best for your baby to soothe herself). You wouldn't need the special feeding system that you keep in the baby's room for convenience. You wouldn't need the bumpers, the sheets, and all the decor to match. And because you wouldn't be accustomed to being separate from your baby, nor would you need the "Good vibrations hammock swing" that can be upright for playtime when it rocks, bounces and vibrates. (*Right Start* catalog, summer 1997.)

The requirements of the crib don't just boost the economy, they also teach certain behaviors that are important in an industrial society dominated by the clock and inane rules that enforce hierarchies. Baby must learn that when he's in his crib, he must sleep or play quietly. If he cries, he will be ignored. If he's hungry, he must wait. Parents must listen to the crying and, even if they find it difficult, must squash any desire to go to their child. How will he learn otherwise? It can be difficult to adjust to rigid sleeping and eating schedules, but it must be done. Why? Because we have internalized the notion that our babies must be independent. That they should squash needs that could be met with human comfort and learn to get needs met by comfort objects. We are not only training them in the rhythms of the workplace, we are teaching them to orient themselves and their needs toward objects. The responsibility for

most of this training is placed on Mom's shoulders. She is the target of the more than 1,000 parenting books listed in *Books in Print*, the countless advice columns, TV and radio shows, and videos—all dictating the minutia of everyday life with children.

The all-time best-selling *Baby and Child Care* by Dr. Spock, a book that has influenced millions of parents for over 40 years, recommends that if the newborn starts out in her parents' room, it is a good idea to get her out by the time she is six months old. This is the right age to move her because by then, she has "the strength to take care of [herself] pretty well." Perhaps what Dr. Spock has in mind is the fact that a six-month old is strong enough to change position if need be. In other words, she probably won't suffocate because she has the neck strength to lift her head. Other problems—hunger, loneliness, boredom, insofar as they are not rectified by the pacifier, bottle, mobile, or white noise machine—will have to be tolerated.

Dr. Spock suggests that if children are still in their parents' room by the age of six months, "there is a chance that they may become dependent on this arrangement and be afraid and unwilling to sleep anywhere else." He doesn't say that human children are born dependent on their parents for many things, and that children around the world and across time have slept with their parents with no harm done as far as anyone can tell. He doesn't mention that his advice about where your baby should sleep is historically

HOWEVER: HE WAS VERY HELPFUL TO THE "MIDDLE-CLASS" MOM INSURING THROUGH HIS EXPERT — ADVICE THAT WE RAISED A WHOLE GENERATION OF WELL-ADJUSTED MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS.



specific and has more to do with his personal prejudices and cultural roots than anything else.

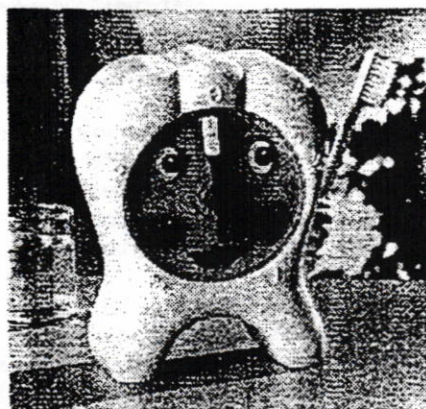
"Sometimes a small child is going through a period of waking up frightened at night—perhaps coming repeatedly into the parents' room, perhaps crying persistently—and is taken into the parents' bed with them so that they can all get some sleep. This seems like the most practical thing to do at the time, but it usually turns out to be a mistake. *Even if the child's anxiety lessens during the following weeks, he is apt to cling to the security of his parents' bed, and there is the devil to pay getting him out again.*" [italics added]

His main priority seems to be that the child not end up in your room for the night under any circumstances. He does not say why. In the face of some very strong emotions—fright, persistent crying, anxiety—a parent may "comfort the child in his own room" or "consult a doctor," but not do the practical thing, and the thing that many parents know instinctively will work the best, which, by the way, may also be the thing the child is actually asking for: physical comfort and company from his parents. Meanwhile, in resisting the urge to do the "practical thing," we are absorbing the lesson that we probably should not trust our own instincts. We set ourselves up to require the aid of experts simply to make it through the night or at least to need more advice books. We are being directed away from the solution that will allow us all to get some sleep.

Dr. Spöck does allow that a child could share a room with a sibling but believes that "it's fine for children to have a room of their own, especially as they grow older, where they can keep their own possessions under control and have privacy when they want it."

## Off to the Right Start

The message to children via their parents is: don't look for comfort from us, but here's a room where you can comfort yourself and privately control your possessions. The cycle builds on itself. The more a parent is advised and influenced by our self-reliant consumerist culture, the more he is attracted to the baby and child products that actually serve to distance him from his child. How else could a catalog that promises to "get your child off to The Right Start" feature a "playful little timer [that] lets you record a personal and positive time-out message. Clock face starts out frowning, and at the end of time-out turns into a smile as your personal message plays. Batteries included." So now we not only send them to their rooms for soothing comfort



**NEW!**

## Time-out with a happy ending

This playful little timer lets you record a personal and positive time-out message. Clock face starts out frowning, and at the end of time-out turns into a smile as your personal message plays. Operates on 2 button-cell batteries (included). Ages 2 to 4 years. 8 1/4" H x 5 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D.

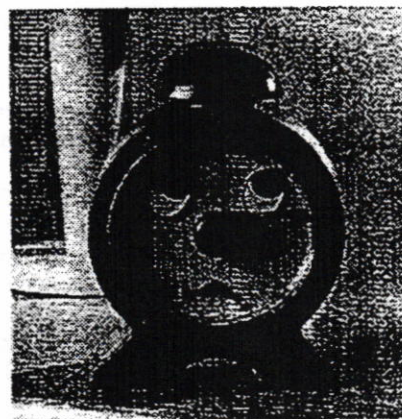
**Time-out Timer #04430012 \$19.95**

**NEW!**

## Brush up on fun

This wind-up timer helps you teach your child good oral hygiene and makes brushing teeth a happy time. Rotate the toothbrush hand, and the timer will run for the 2 1/2 minutes pediatric dentists recommend. When the timer rings, the clock face smiles and it's time to stop brushing. Built-in toothbrush holder is on the side (toothbrush not included). Ages 2 1/2 to 4 years. 8 1/4" H x 5 1/2" W x 2 1/2" D.

**Dental Care Timer #04430013 \$14.95**



IM GOING TO STOP MY "UNDER THIS  
ARTICLE COMMENTARY" at ONE REQUEST  
COULD SOMEONE OUT THERE PLEASE SEND ME A→



from machines and objects, we also send them there to be disciplined by toy clocks that play back what could only be some trivial sound bite of parental guidance. For only \$19.95, you can remove yourself another step from your child's life.

Our children are good consumers in the making. Toymakers have long been aware that successful toys imitate adult activities. (*Playthings*, September 1993.) Shopping is an essential American skill. "Melanie's Mall is a center for more than just shopping. Take the escalator to Beauty World, then head to the food court, or head out through the revolving door!" Or you can purchase for your child a "Supermarket Check-Out with electronic scanner that beeps, a play credit card, and pretend food." ("Boys Have Better Toys" by Lydia Sargent, *Z Magazine*, November 1996.) The Boston Children's Museum features as one of its permanent exhibits a make believe grocery store where children can wander down the aisles, loading their baskets with plastic grocery replicas, and then purchasing them at the pretend check-out counter.

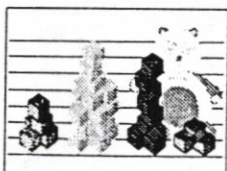
Toys also privatize the relationship between parent and child. Parents think they can buy their child the tools to make them smart, happy, and well adjusted, and so their attention is directed away from the larger social forces that might be affecting them. There's a new toy on the market called Sticky Situations. It allows parents and children to work together placing stickers on design boards to help them sort through difficult life experiences, such as "Mommy's having a baby," or "When will you be home?" There is also a version that helps you explain to your child what he or she will be doing the next day—"think of it as a sort of Franklin Planner or Day Runner for kids who can't read yet." (*Nation's Business*, January 1997.) Rather than look to your community, extended family, or social benefits package for help getting through sticky situations, you can purchase a toy instead. As the entrepreneurs have figured it, "There's been a ton of stuff with stickers out there—jobs charts and calendars and more stuff than you can imagine—but nobody has picked up on the emotional side yet." Although the folks in the sticker business are just getting around to using their product to meet emotional needs, Hallmark has not been so slow on the uptake. A new line of their cards is designed for absent parents who want to brightly remind their child to have a good day or be good at school.

The *Boston Globe's* "Child Caring" column advises us in an "afterthought" to improve our children's self-esteem by saying something positive to them at least five times a day. These quantified and purchased moments with our children give us false

comfort, even as the social supports that might truly guide them as they grow up dwindle. They do not encourage us to challenge our workplaces for more leave so that we don't need Hallmark to communicate with our children. They don't lead us to question whether self-esteem-building comments can be squeezed into five minutes of quality time or whether we will be capable of keeping track of the count when we are run ragged by the demands of home and work life. They don't get us to think about some of the stickier situations kids find themselves in—poverty, bad schools, a toxic environment, and unsupported families.

### *It Takes A Whole Baby Product And Advice Industry To Raise A Child*

**H**ow we parent, and what is considered good parenting is historically specific. Practices that are considered detrimental today were endorsed in our parents' or grandparents' day. The marketplace is one of the forces that shapes our opinion of good parenting. Obviously, as parents, we don't see our job as a mandate to train little workers/shoppers, but the subtle and not-so-subtle messages from baby books, magazines, and advertising greatly affect our decisions about how to raise children.



The result is parents are made complicit in society's need for a population trained in the whys and wherefores of a throwaway consumer culture, dependent on gratifying needs through objects, able to accept and even thrive on rigid schedules, and satisfied with—even embracing—a work culture and a set of social services that make it virtually impossible for families to choose an attachment style of parenting that eschews the objectification of the parent/child relationship and that recognizes larger social forces (beyond the narrow confines of the family) that influence a child's well-being.

Hillary Clinton says it takes a village to raise a child. But in late 20th century North America, there are few villages—unless you count the shopping mall or the mail order catalog that just dropped through your mail slot. To resist the commodification of parenting, we have to reverse the isolation that most U.S. families experience today. We have to give our children the stimulating enriching experience of the presence and support of their families and their communities, not the presents brought to you by Mattel and licensed by Disney.

Z

*Cynthia Peters was a member of South End Press for over ten years, and editor of Collateral Damage.*

GOOD DICTIONARY MY SPELLING SUCKS ♀ THANKX Sherry



# ‡ OPEN LETTER TO NON-BREEDERS ▲ FROM AN ANARCHIST MOM ♀

pg 10

To: Whom it may or may not concern; This is, simply, **F.Y.I.**,

Moms are the bottom rung on the ladder. This society (and many more across the world) are built on keeping us oppressed, poor and desperate to have our needs met, we are made into victims, mothers, our children are killed, and poisoned at the drop of a hat; depending on what Corporate War this nasty country is deciding to press on us at the time. So no, you think we're over-populated! I have to tell you this is cock o'shit! There is enough food to feed all the people on this planet. This over-population propaganda is instilled to keep us separate; again not focusing on corporate greed. It's a propaganda the progressive movement picked up and ran with. This is a direct assault on the poor, a sexist idea directed at Mothers and children telling us that the problems of this planet fall on our shoulders, its away of blaming small innocent people (whom don't have a voice that is listened to) and can't fight back for the consumption of this planet's resources. It's a way of keeping us (mothers) down, isolated from the rest of the community, a way of keeping us poor (you know there are so many of us, possibly feed us all, or give us the resources we need to survive.) It's a way to keep MOTHERS desperate and isolated from each other (cause if we share we won't have enough for our own.) It tells women they don't have a right to their own bodies to choose or not to choose to have kids; or that maybe its ok to choose to have one child but if you have more your a burden. Folks this idea is another separatist movement. **IT IS MOMS OPPRESSION!** If we don't have children who do we pass our ideas on too, who repairs the mess we've made on this planet? who learns and grows past us? You all know that the U.S. of A. consumes 35% (or more) of the whole WORLD'S resources and makes 1/2 the waste, COME ON do these few 5% need this much? When you see women and children (in the media) starving all over the world do you really think we are dying because there are too many of us or because Multi-Million dollar Corps. come in and suck up every possible means of survival we have! Which is it folks a or b? circle one! **DONT BUY IT, DONT BREED SEPERATISM** we have enough of that already **DONT BREED SEXISM** stand up for women with children **DONT BREED RACISM** Thats how the blame sits, we are told daily there are soo many women of color having so many children and they just shouldn't 'cause they're poor, so its thier fault **BULLSHIT DONT BREED CLASSISM** Poverty is not the fault of the people trapped in it! Think about it, hold on to the idea of over population if you must, but be aware of the danger of holding on to such absolute

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1998

US, we as a society couldn't

The Non-breeding attitude of the radical-left

is equal to that of radical-right  
 as far as MOMS are concerned  
 once again we are pushed  
 aside!  
 without a voice  
 without a choice



SUSAN CONEJO Daily Texan Staff

Sherry Milam, women's right activist and publisher of The Radical Mother's Voice magazine, raises her voice in protest as the Right to Life march proceeds down Fourth Street. **DIDNT THEY MAKE THAT SOUND EVERY?**

CONT NEXT PG



OPEN LETTER CONT...

Pg 11

I  
WILL  
ALWAYS  
CROSS  
That  
line

ideas, if you are working for community, you have just excluded the largest part! Remember that MOTHERS are oppressed and they are an active part of our communities with a voice that has been stifled! We are fighting for the future of this planet for our children!

Consider your own fear of children, your own hurts about what it was like for you as a kid. Consider your own fear of commitment and selflessness it takes to think about and raise child well.

Believing children to be a burden or oppressing an individual's freedom somehow; is another strand of **MOM'S OPPRESSION**

This system is set up that way!

If you believe yourself not able to become a parent  
"THAT'S AWESOME" You don't have too, but admit the true reasons why cause the over-pop. argument is old

DON'T TELL ME I'M THE CAUSE OF THIS  
PLANETS DESTRUCTION BECAUSE I'VE  
MADE THE OTHER CHOICE

REMEMBER Y'ALL I'M RAISING  
THE Revolution!



EVERY MOM AWARE OF HER OPPRESSION & STRETCHING TO  
FIND WAYS OUT OF IT IN A DAILY STRUGGLE IS ACTIVIST.  
MOTHERHOOD IS ACTIVISM!



PLEASE

PLEASE

EXCUSE  
TIRED  
OVER-  
EXTENDED  
MOMS'  
BAD  
SPELLING

RAISING OUR kids outside of the NORM is political; • I would not be Pg 12  
a living example to my child if I didn't actively stand up  
for what I believe to be injustice That's my job, my responsibility  
to show him that I will always "have his back" and fight all  
things that are harmful and threaten his HUMANESS. - Sherry -

# ACTIVIST MOMS UNITE!

ARTIST (MUSICAL STYLE)  
ACTIVIST  
TARO'S  
ROCKIN' MOM

The politicians — they're our children.  
And the generals are too.

Now, come on mothers.  
Are you gonna let the kids  
Tell you what to do?

These modern games of warfare,  
Are too dangerous to play.

And it's time that mothers 'round the  
world  
Took these toys away!

## Some Contacts: Resources TO END THE NUCLEAR AGE

SAVE WARD VALLEY  
COALITION: 107 "F"  
ST. NEEDLES, CA

92363  
#(619) 326-6267

TALK TO MOLLY: WARD  
VALLEY IS SACRED LAND  
TO 5 Colorado INDIAN  
TRIBES There is currently  
a peace camp there to  
prevent it from becoming  
A RAD. WASTE DUMP...

Sierra BLANCA LEGAL  
DEFENSE FUND (512)  
447-8906 ERIN ROGERS  
STOP NUKE WASTE IN TEXAS  
SHUNDAHAI NETWORK  
IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
1-800-471-4737

HELP, SHUT DOWN  
THE TEST-SITE & RE-  
TURN THE LAND TO  
THE WESTERN  
SHOSHONE! TALK TO MATEO  
ABOUT THE GATHERING EVERY  
APRIL.

MORE THOUGHTS ON BY MICHELLE XENOS

Activism • Politics • so what about this life that we live?  
how many moms/parents and kids do we really see out here, at  
base camps and peace camps. If there are parents, are the kids  
around it? For a community of a hundred why are there  
only three kids. We're mostly single, young, white, childless adults.  
What would it take to make it more possible for kids to be  
a significant part of our communities - as they should be. I have  
in the 4 1/2 years of Taro's life realized the importance of  
children in activism. We can't just talk about the next seven  
generations if we are not fostering them through our beliefs and  
philosophies. As a mom, it has been through encampment & walk  
communities that I have begun to even realize what community  
I don't find out in the world, making my buck, or buying food or  
just trying to get from one place to another with my kid. But  
yet, the reality is something like: we still need to address issues  
like kids oppression and mom/parents oppression and start within  
our own communities. What would that take? This is about  
practicality. This is about very tangible, real things and steps that  
we can take as a community to make it possible. I can't  
help but wonder if children are just not welcome. I am,  
constantly confronted with the "don't breed philosophy": "I  
don't buy it. It hurts. I like what we believe in - I have  
a great respect for the alternatives that we are taking  
the time to create. I want to pass that on because if you all  
think we're going to get all this work done w/in our life-  
times - I would dis-agree. How arrogant of non-breeders to  
think that they would not need another and yet another gen-  
eration to turn back these tides. I value this next generation  
of ours and am honored to pass on the lessons I learn from and  
the way that I view the Earth and her mysteries. The kids  
need to be out here with us. They are the most powerful  
voice that our movement has. And by the way - moms are  
best most power-house activists you'll ever meet - so -  
this my rant on getting kids, moms, & families out and involved  
in camps and projects and campaigns that directly effects  
their future as well. So maybe we could all start looking  
around us and getting involved in making our community  
environments more inviting. Start by questioning yourself and  
getting into kids lives. You will truly be inspired and your  
activism will be real real real.

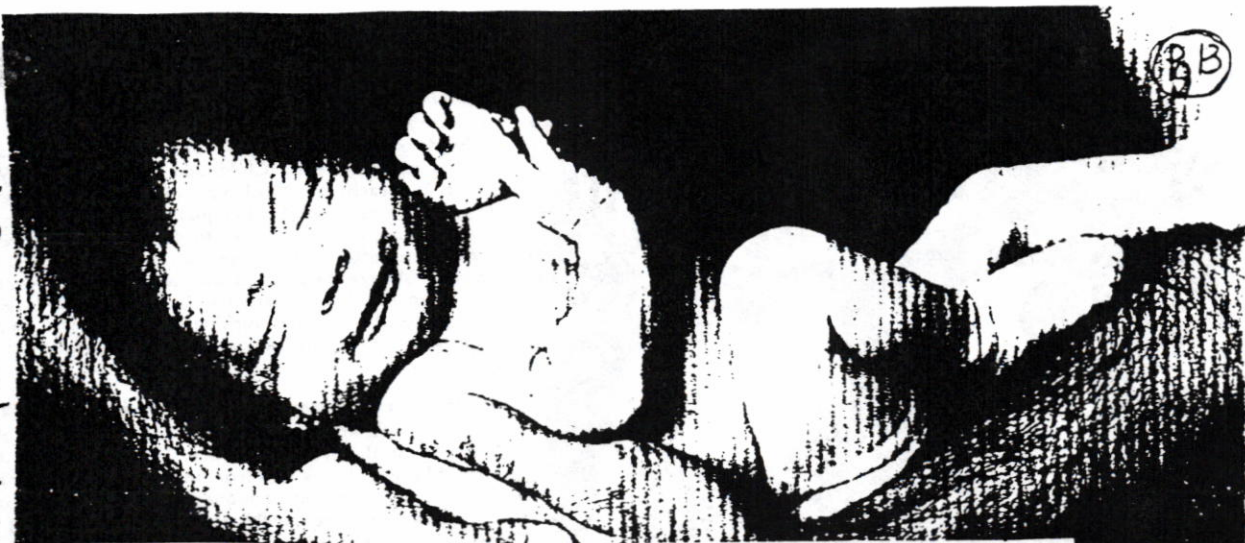
SEE  
FRONT  
PAGE  
PIC.  
OF  
TARO  
&  
Pheran

# MOTHERS FOR PEACE



OUR BOY  
Children need  
a strong sense  
of male-ness

They are  
taught from  
a very young  
age that dom-  
ination and  
violence are  
WHAT BEING A  
BOY IS ABOUT.



## STOP THE MARKETING OF VIOLENCE TO CHILDREN THROUGH TOYS & TV

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT WAR TOYS

These are ten questions and comments we often hear when speaking about war toys or violence in cartoons. There are no right or wrong answers; these represent one person's opinions.

1. *I played with guns as a child and I grew up to be ok (a peace activist, nonviolent).*

I answer this comment in three different ways.

a. War toys have changed quantitatively and qualitatively since many of us were children. Kids no longer have a gun or a few toy soldiers, they own arsenals of weapons backed up with scenarios from cartoons. They show realistic people fighting out good and evil, there is no room for negotiation, cooperation or creative problem solving. Scenarios are often racist and sexist and expose children to incredible violence. Even if your own children don't watch the cartoons they can read about the characters on the packaging of the toys, and they quickly learn it from kids who do watch. When children play with these war toys there is little positive creativity.

b. You may have turned out ok, but our society is extremely violent. People growing up in a warm, loving environment, with people who discuss the issues of violence and war, and who survive childhood without serious emotional traumas, may be able to overcome the influence of war toys and cartoons in their lives. Unfortunately, we don't live in a society where most kids have that kind of childhood. We need to take societal responsibility for violent behavior.

c. I played with guns as a child too, and I consider myself a good person striving to be nonviolent but there is violence within me that is hard to overcome and a temper that sometimes prevents me from seeing a clear solution. The toys I played with as a child did not encourage ways to resolve conflict in a creative, nonviolent way.

2. *If kids don't have guns they'll use their finger, sticks, bananas, etc. to make guns.*

The biggest problem I have with buying war toys is that by buying them we are telling our children that we condone them and therefore condone violence and war as solutions to problems. Just because children will use their fingers doesn't mean we have to provide them with the war toys. I wish my children wouldn't make gestures that replicate guns in any way, but I don't stop them unless it involves fighting.

3. *Denying children guns and war toys makes a big deal out of it and it makes them want them more.*

Do we allow our children to put their fingers on a hot stove or in a socket or let them smoke or use cocaine because telling them not to will make them want it more? NO. Because our job as parents and teachers is to raise our children in a safe place, teaching them the morals we believe in. If we believe this includes restricting war toys and cartoons then we say no and explain why. They may rebel, they may want them, but, we can only hope they will end up with the values we believe in. We needn't make a big deal about war toys to our children which may make it forbidden fruit. But simply let them know how we feel and why.

4. *War toys provide a catharsis for children's anger.*

Giving children war toys does not purge them of violence it often creates or escalates it. Most children do not repress their anger, they are very up-front about it. We need to give them channels to express their anger in helpful ways. I recommend that people who have children who play with war toys try an experiment. Play with their children and their friends for awhile with blocks, balls, puzzles, artwork, etc. After a while introduce guns, GI Joe, etc. and see if the behavior and play changes.

5. *How do you channel kids' anger and aggression without giving them these kinds of outlets?*

There are many ways of letting a child be angry or use their aggression without hurting or pretending to hurt others. I believe the best way is to build a child's self-esteem and praise them for positive behavior, get to the root of the anger, and try to help your child use words, cooperate and develop creative ways to solve problems. Also, physical play and exercise helps reduce anger and stress.

There are many excellent books that deal with these problems. It is important to understand the steps of developmental growth in children to help them understand their own anger and changes due to growth.

6. *How do I help my child deal with peer pressure to have war toys and watch violent cartoons?*

There is so much peer pressure to have lots of kinds of toys. It is important to help your child have a sense of self-worth as a foundation. Then provide them with alternative experiences and toys that they can share with their friends. And above all, talk with them about their feelings and yours. They should understand why they don't have certain things and understand possessing things is not a good basis for friendship or popularity. Teach them to think for themselves and share with them examples of the many great people who have done so throughout history.

It's not only peer pressure but pressure from advertisers that children must contend with. This can be used as an opportunity for an economics lesson. Your children should know that most toy manufacturers' first concern is profits, not good toys.

BOYS ARE BEAUTIFUL!!  
NON-VIOLENT, LOVING, BRILLANT PEOPLE | DON'T MILITARIZE OUR BOYS ♀





woodcut by Erika Welts

7. How do you handle guns and war toys at home, in school, and with friends?

We do not allow our children to have guns or war toys at home or in school. Also, we avoid Saturday morning cartoons by doing other things with the kids. We do not restrict our kids from playing with other kids' war toys on their turf. But, if we see that it is causing fighting we will try to focus them on something else. Often an adult's attention in creating an alternative is all that's needed.

8. I can understand why you oppose guns but what's wrong with Transformers and toys that change into robots?

Transformers and Gobots turn into robots with guns, not just robots. They transform so they can fight. I have no problems with toys that turn into other toys that are not for fighting and I think toy manufacturers should be encouraged to make such toys; some do. The main problem is these toys are backed up by extremely violent cartoon shows. Gobots has 66 acts of violence per hour, Transformers has 61. Even if they miss the cartoons they learn them from other kids, and the packaging explains the violent nature of the toys.

**Boys Boys Boys.** What is the story of raising a boy in this world? how do boys think. How are girls and boys different? Gender. It's all about gender. We have roles that we take on. Sexism starts at the very beginning. Girls in pink and boys in blue. Walk into a child's clothing section of a store. Gaud awful. Boys and girls are held differently, they are talked to differently. It defines us. We are given roles to play. Then we grow up and we live out those things. Then boys seem to not be too honest about their emotions. And girls seem to not believe in themselves so much. And girls seem to think that there is a certain way that their bodies should look and a proper way to act. And then boys have certain expectations of girls to be a certain way. And then somehow there seem to be things that women need to do and jobs to take on that boys grow up thinking that home children are not their responsibility. And so how do you confront that kind of stuff as a mother? How do you counter-balance gender definitions? So Jody Dodd told me right after Taro was born: It's easy to raise a feminist daughter, but the bigger challenge is to raise a feminist son. I guess I wouldn't say that it would be easy to raise a daughter to have high self-esteem or to believe in herself. But as a woman - I remember that you get on the path of realizing the power of a woman - I remember that you get on the path of realizing the power of a woman - I remember that you get on the path of realizing the power of a woman - I remember that you get on the path of realizing the power of a woman. What is the sacredness of that role? Woman is whole. Creation. Connection. We are taught to think holistically. Boys do not have the power of Creation w/in them. So what do they hold onto? What do I teach him is the power and strength of man. Man. The dominant. White man, the ultimate dominant. How do you accept your roles w/in this society but learn to be humble with your privilege? Take your privilege?

BEING MALE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CONTROL OR WEAPONS OR WINNING

Don't deny the oppressions of those around you. Confusing. Believe in yourself. Be true to your feelings. Don't be shy to shed tears. But it definitely goes much deeper than those words. All of his life for every day that he lives and walks this earth, he will have definitions given to him. And all I can do is help him to understand and search for the true powers of being male. Not that I know them, and maybe he'll help me find out through his own searching. All I can do is show him respect & love him. Love him. Teach him how to love himself. And learn to love myself too.

THIS YOU HAVE TO BE TOUGH, TO BE A MAN" ATTITUDE IS THE FIRST INSTILLATION OF "HOMOPHOBIA" OUR BOYS RECEIVE

9. Even if we don't give our children war toys they still play at war with their fingers or with other weapons they create themselves. How should we handle war play?

Nancy Carlsson-Paige and Diane E. Levin add an important dimension to this debate with their book, "The War Play Dilemma, Balancing Needs and Values in the Early Childhood Classroom." They recommend that parents and teachers not forbid or stop war play but actively take a part in it. Help children develop both the quality of their war play and their political understanding of it. One way to do this is to change the negative war scenario they often mimic from television and interject humanity into the "enemy." Change the play in a way that challenges their stereotypes of war and the enemy. It's important to understand the developmental and political issues children are working on in their war play and talk to them about their feelings and understandings of weapons and war play outside of the play.

10. When there are so many serious problems in the world, why focus on children's toys?

People who work on the issue of domestic violence often talk about the need to break the cycle of violence. Those who are battered become batterers. I believe that is also true on a societal level. Children who are led to believe that violence is condoned through what they see on television or the toys they are given, will have no problem accepting violence as a solution for their own and world problems. Our struggle for peace and justice in the world is a long one and will not be completed in one generation. Children grow up quickly and soon become of draft and voting age. They soon become those who make policy and those who allow policies to be made. If we choose to bring children into the world we must take responsibility for them. Even if we don't have our own children we must remember they soon will be running our world. Helping children to be peaceful, justice-seeking individuals without prejudice is a full-time job but cannot be done in a vacuum; we must change society's values as we try to raise our children.

Answers by Kate Donnelly



**WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE**

339 LAFAYETTE STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10012



So, do i write about lesbian parenting or about how everyone in my generation has really bad posture. Maybe i'll write about how i think one influences the other. No, not this time.

I am a lesbian parent. What does that mean to you? What does it mean to me? It is the same old story that i don't feel qualified to represent the entire community of parenting lesbians, blah blah blah. Most of the time i feel like an anomaly even among lesbian moms. What am i saying? I hardly even know any other lesbian moms. I, too, have some generalized stereotype of lesbian moms. You know, Tammy and Karla with the turkey baster in a three bedroom house in the suburbs, a minitruck, a Honda civic, and the women's softball league. Oh yeah, and lots of other supportive lesbians around to tickle little Cody under the chin and read to her from Heather Has Two Mommies.

When i got pregnant, by accident, i had this idea that my lesbian community would rally around and support me in my decision to have my baby. Instead, i was told in no uncertain terms that by having a child i would not only lose that community and many close friends within it, but also that i was ruining my life and the life of my unborn child. I was berated for having unsafe sex, i

was told to have an abortion. i was kicked out of my <sup>lesbian</sup> household. My girlfriend, however, did commit to parenting with me and we both ducked out of the "lesbian community" and i ducked out of my lesbian identity as well. I am a lesbian parent, neither because i have sex with women, nor because i belong to some tight knit community of women loving women, but solely because in the real world i stand hand in hand with another woman as we raise our daughter. I am a lesbian parent because i face the prejudice and oppression that goes along with that image. Mostly, i feel like a MOM and i identify and bond with women over issues of motherhood now. The world labels me a lesbian mom and i do get a picture of how i look to them and how that affects me.



## THE FINER POINT OF POSTURE AND LESBIAN MOTHERHOOD by MOLLY GOVE





First, from many friendly type heterosexual moms there ends to be some envy. They see my co-momma as taking more responsibility for our daughter than their male partners do. Also, they have expressed envy that we seem to be "coming from the same place" with our ideas on parenting, nutrition, etc. the truth is that my partner does take a lot of responsibility for parenting, but we have worked really hard to make it happen. As birth momma i found difficulty in relinquishing control and as the non-birth mom she deals with feelings of displacement and external disrespect. We negotiate, struggle, and work until things feel right for both of us.

It is an ongoing process and a priority.

As for "coming from the same place," it's true that we have harmonious ideas and goals in parenting style, food choices, and our world view in general, but i think this has less to do with gender and more to do with where we both were in our personal evolutions when we got together. Also, there is some envy that my partner plans to get pregnant. The straight moms think it's really cool that we both get to go through the experience. I have to admit i think it is really cool too.

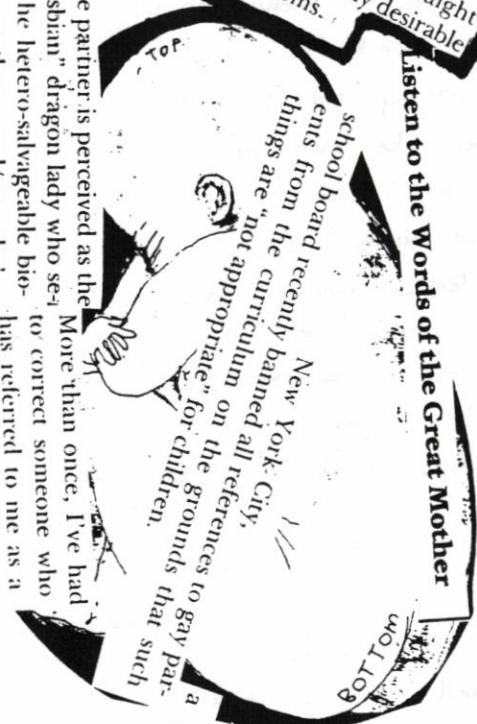
Sometimes i get comments from friends and acquaintances like, "Oh, Green is so nice to watch Hugo for you while you go do things." Some people just don't understand that she is really a parent and not a baby sitter.

You know what? I hardly ever talk to the people i am about to speak for, so i am basing my commentary on my fears and impressions of what the big, bad straight world thinks of lesbian parents. They think we are sleazy and perverse. We will sexually abuse our children or leave them in the hands of other queers who will. We hate men or think that they are dispensible. We will teach our daughters to hate men. We will raise our sons to be gay. We are "unnatural!"

8/16

The only way that lesbian parents are different, according to a 1989 study at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, is that we believe in "using less physical punishment and more reasoning," and we're less interested than straight parents in presenting ourselves "in a socially desirable light." Most of the time, we're just Moms.

The partner is perceived as the "fake lesbian" dragon lady who seduced the hetero-salvageable biological mother and/or she's disconnected as a coparent.



Listen to the Words of the Great Mother

Here's a way to save a child's life





We have an "agenda."

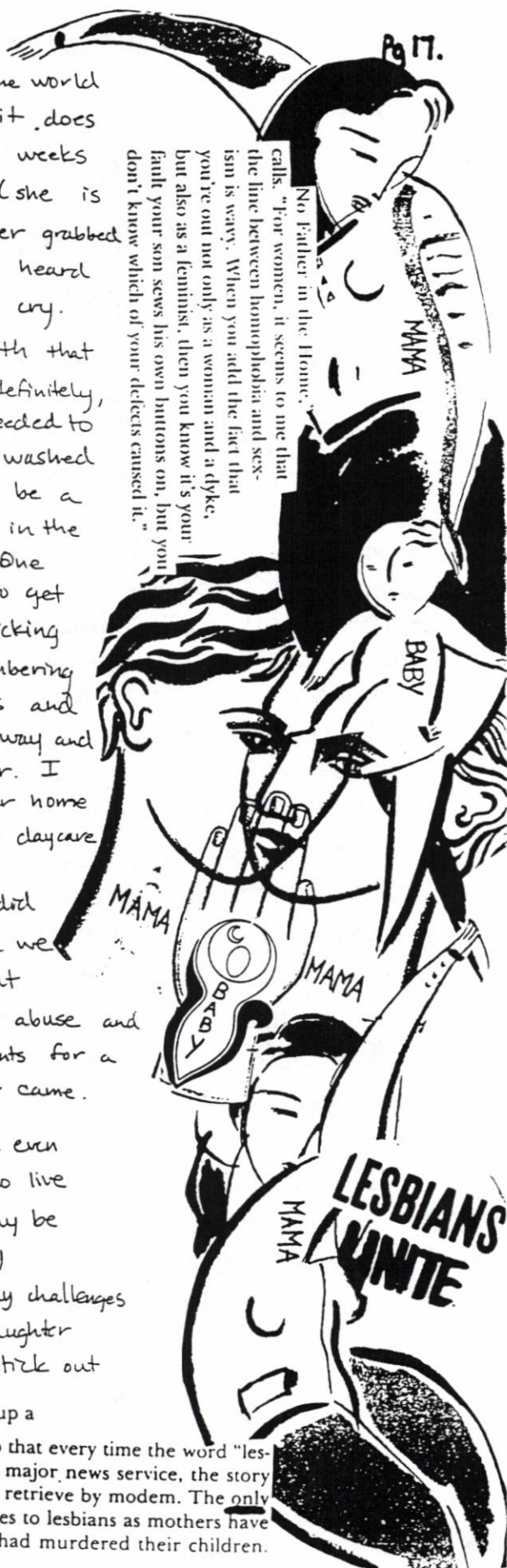
Mostly, i don't focus on the part of the world that hates, fears, and suspects me. However, it does have its grip on parts of my life. A few weeks ago my daughter was climbing onto the bed (she is 2½ years old) she needed a hand, so my partner grabbed her by the wrist and pulled her up. We both heard a muffled "pop" and then hugo started to cry. She was holding her arm close and crying with that tone that every mother knows. Something was definitely, really wrong. My first thought was that we needed to take her to the hospital. My second thought washed over me with complete terror. "There's going to be a social worker." The house was a wreck, dishes in the sink, unfolded laundry, we only have one bed. One bed. That was the clincher. I was trying to get us ready to go to the hospital while panicking about a potential visit from C.P.S. and remembering bits of stories about lesbians losing their kids and about their ability to just take your kids away and then figure out if abuse is happening later. I was imagining how traumatic a shelter or foster home would be for hugo who has never even been to daycare. I was in panic mode.

We made it to the hospital and we did see a social worker who was concerned because we had not immunized. I went home paranoid that C.P.S. had been alerted about our potential for abuse and thought of going to stay with friends or my parents for a week, just in case. I didn't leave. They never came.

I am a lesbian parent. I like my life even as i struggle with what it presents me. I do live with persistent fear, some of which may be irrational, but i'm not sure. I am alternately immobilized, angered, depressed, and inspired by my challenges as a parent. Mostly, i want to teach my daughter to stand up straight in the face of fear, stick out her tongue, and do a little jig. Last year, I set up a

Can you imagine the headline  
HETEROSEXUALS CHARGED WITH  
KILLING THEIR 18-MONTH-OLD?

folder on Compuserve so that every time the word "lesbian" is mentioned on a major news service, the story falls into a file that I can retrieve by modem. The only two stories with references to lesbians as mothers have been about people who had murdered their children.





# The ~~HISTORY~~ HERSTORY OF The MOTHER

pg 18

"YES!" WE have a herstory; One not based on oppression and powerlessness, but based on HONOR, RESPECT and BRILLIANCE

MOTHERS ARE THE CREATORS AND ITS TIME WE TOOK  
OUR POWER BACK!!

As Humans learn more it seems to me we have to dominate or have control over that knowledge. Those that feel powerless, feel the need to control; the point is as women "Mothers" we are given no hint of a herstory in Main-Stream education (However now there are special "WOMEN'S STUDIES" classes in higher education) Women (as well as men) have to search, with some effort to find that we have real humane power and that that power has a past one given from woman-to-woman, woman to child. Where now we are chastised as Mothers we were once honored. We as women created and educated many different NATIONS of people. ALL INFORMATION should be shared not controlled. The article I cut this Mother info from is written in the typical educated bullshit white way referring often to different cultures and thier history (learning process) as primitive, un-civilized or savage. THESE WORDS ARE IGNORANT AND RACIST, so I cut them out, so if it doesn't flow in places that's where one of those ignorant words took a stance. I still feel this is useful info (For women and mothers, as well as others to KNOW we have a past, A HERSTORY BEFORE SEXISM TOOK AWAY OUR VOICES, MADE US QUESTION OUR INTELLIGENCE AND BECOME BODY OBSESSED. It's in my hopes and prayers that we as humans can find a balance between the matriarchal and patriarchal societies learning the full loving balanced goodness that both men and women hold - FOR OUR CHILDRENS SAKE.



When new-born humanity was learning to stand upright, it depended much on its mother and stood close to her protecting side. Then women were goddesses, they conducted divine worship, women's voice was heard in council, she was loved and revered and genealogies were reckoned through her. What broke into this feminine Elysium and robbed it of liberty and happiness?





The male of the species. As the race grew older, rationality flourished at the expense of moral sense. . . . Man, unmindful of the mother's contributions to racial uplift and welfare, thought only of bending every energy and forcing tribute from everything and every one who could elevate himself and give him dominating power. . . .

The mistake began when God was created in a male image. . . . That makes life so perverted, and death so unnatural. We should have imagined life as created in the birth-pain of God the Mother. Then we would understand why we, Her children, have inherited pain, for we would know that our life's rhythm beats from Her great heart, torn with the agony of love and birth. And we would feel that death meant reunion with Her, a passing back into her substance, blood of Her: blood again, peace of Her peace! Now wouldn't that be more logical and satisfying than having God a male whose chest thunders with egotism and is too hard for tired heads and thoroughly comfortless?<sup>87</sup>

Despite the basic male need to take part in feminine values, the patriarchal society seems to be organized the other way: women are forced to attain a sense of personal worth by taking part in masculine values. Instead of aspiring happily to the worthy estate of motherhood, many women are taught to think it unworthy while they are still in the "bosom" of the patriarchal family: devaluation of motherhood leaves children of both sexes cut off from a vital experience. **MOTHER** She has, "as part of her very sexuality, a sense of the future: a sense of evolution and growth, a notion of deferring pleasures for future gains, a sense of the phases and seasons of life, a devotion to the value of the individual human being. These sentiments are the very source of human morality."<sup>105</sup> Indeed these are precisely the sentiments embodied in matriarchal religions' cyclic, future-oriented view of life. Such religions were free of the neurotic quest for indefinable "meaning" in life, since they never assumed that life would be required to justify itself. They were also generally free of the anxiety, guilt, and sense of sin imposed by patriarchal religions, evolved by males made insecure from earliest childhood by a social order based on male intimidation and dominance. **MOTHER** From the beginning, it was maternal spirit that fostered cooperation and togetherness in work or worship.

The maternal totemic clan was by far the most successful form that human association has assumed—it may indeed be said that it has been the only successful one. . . . Political organizations, religious theocracies, States, nations, have endeavored in vain to achieve real and complete social solidarity. They are artificial structures; social humanity has never succeeded in adequately replacing the bond to which it owes its existence.<sup>95</sup>

Medieval ballads depict a world where mothers were the ultimate authority in every household. Sons appealed to mothers, not fathers, in times of crisis, as the ballad-hero Johnie Cock asked the help of his mother, and through her, of the Goddess. Christianity however was devoted to destruction of the Goddess and her temples (Acts 19:27). Clement of Alexandria quoted Christ: "I have come to destroy the works of the female."<sup>96</sup> Christ ordered his followers to renounce their families (Luke 14:26) and said to his own mother, "Woman, what have I to do with thee?" (John 2:4). Fathers of the church wrote diatribes against motherhood.<sup>97</sup> Western religion conse-





The secret of fatherhood can only have been revealed to men by the women themselves, because women were the keepers of calendrical records, another traditionally female skill that most men thought beyond their comprehension. Before the advent of monogamous marriage, a late development in human history, there would have been no reason or inclination to correlate copulations with births. Even if the truth were suspected, there were many negative cases to disprove it: some women could copulate frequently and never become pregnant, others could remain "barren" when living with one man but conceive when living with another. Women past menopause or before menarche could take any number of lovers without conceiving, which tended to suggest that menstruation was the crucial factor rather than sexual activity.

Many male scholars still try to pretend there never was a Goddess, or if there was, she was only a "cult" figure vaguely associated with sexual promiscuity and/or "fertility." It is not recognized that religious feeling for the Mother was, if anything, much deeper and more passionate than feelings for a divine patriarch.

As may be found still in many groups of people, motherhood alone was the foundation of clan loyalties. In Assam, the social unit of tribes was *maharis*, "motherhoods." The Malay family was a *sa-mandei*, "motherhood." Among the Garos and Khasis, mothers headed the family groups and bequeathed all property in the female line; men could inherit nothing. Nearly everywhere, kinship bonds also passed only through the female line, as in the ancient system deliberately reversed by the Bible's "begats," which recognized only male ancestors. Seri Indian tribes called themselves Kunkak, "womanhood," or "motherhood."<sup>8</sup> The earliest religious works of art "are figures of the solitary Great Goddess—the Paleolithic image of Mother, before there was any Father either on earth or in heaven."<sup>9</sup> The idea of fatherhood was alien to the religious or social thinking of the earliest civilizations.<sup>10</sup>

"Home and mother" are written over every phase of neolithic agriculture. . . . It was the woman who wielded the digging stick and the hoe; she who tended the garden crops and accomplished those masterpieces of selection and cross-fertilization which turned raw wild species into the prolific and richly nutritious domestic varieties: it was woman who made the first containers, weaving baskets and coiling the first clay pots. . . . In form, the village, too, is her creation: for whatever else the village might be, it was a collective nest for the care and nurture of the young. Here she lengthened the period of child-care and playful irresponsibility, on which so much of man's higher development depends. House and village, eventually the town itself, are woman writ large. In Egyptian hieroglyphics, "house" or "town" may stand as symbols for "mother, as if to confirm the similarity of the individual and the collective nurturing function. In line with this, the more primitive structures—houses, rooms, tombs—are usually round ones: like the original bowl described in Greek myth, which was modeled on Aphrodite's breast."<sup>11</sup>

Ancient civilizations show ample evidence of the matriarchal matrix in which they grew.

: Mother gave comfort and reassurance. Eskimo shamans still call her the soul of the universe, never seen, but her voice can be heard: "a gentle voice, like a woman, a voice so fine and gentle that even children cannot become afraid. What it says is 'Be not afraid of the universe.'"





There was no ruling class to exploit the villagers, no compulsion to work for a surplus the local community was not allowed to consume, no taste for idle luxury, no jealous claim to private property, no exorbitant desire for power, no institutional war. Though scholars have long contemptuously dismissed the "myth of the Golden Age," it is their scholarship, rather than the myth, that must now be questioned.

At Catal Huyuk, in what is now southern Turkey, a matriarchal community of the 7th millenium B.C., there was no evidence of chieftainship or rivalry, though there were many priestesses. Children were buried in the tombs of their mothers. Art and handicrafts flourished, producing obsidian mirrors, copper and lead jewelry and tools, woolen textiles, artistically carved wooden vessels. For 1500 years—seven times as long as the existence of the United States of America—the community seemed free of massacre or war. Though many hundreds of skeletons have been found, none showed any sign of violent death.<sup>91</sup>

Matriarchal Sumeria dominated the Fertile Crescent for 3000 years with virtually no evidence of warfare.<sup>92</sup> Neolithic foundations of such peaceful societies have been unearthed at Hassuna, Tell Halaf, Samarra, and Ubaid—where there were no gods. Holy icons showed only naked women holding or nursing infants.<sup>93</sup> Patriarchal religions gradually ousted the ancient matriarchies, chiefly by violence; but some scholars have suggested that this revolution was neither satisfactory nor final. The Great Mother, ostensibly overthrown by her sons, as an ineradicable archetype dwelling somewhere in the psyche of every human being born of woman—which means, of course, every human being. The more emphatically she is denied, the more threatening her images appear.<sup>94</sup> Ancient myths were not merely allegorizing when they spoke of the furious wrath of a neglected deity.

The Kagaba Indians expressed the same sentiments in a forceful song describing their Goddess:

*The Mother of Songs, the mother of our whole seed, bore us in the beginning. She is the mother of all races of men and the mother of all tribes. She is the mother of thunder, the mother of the rivers, the mother of trees and of all kinds of things. She is the mother of songs and dances. She is the mother of the older brother stones. She is the mother of the grain and the mother of all things. . . . She is the mother of the dance paraphernalia and of all temples, and the only mother we have. She is the mother of the animals, the only one, and the mother of the Milky Way. It was the mother herself who began to baptize. She gave us the limestone coca dish. She is the mother of the rain, the only one we have. She alone is the mother of things, she alone. And the mother has left a memory in all the temples. With her sons, the saviors, she left songs and dances as a reminder.*<sup>88</sup>

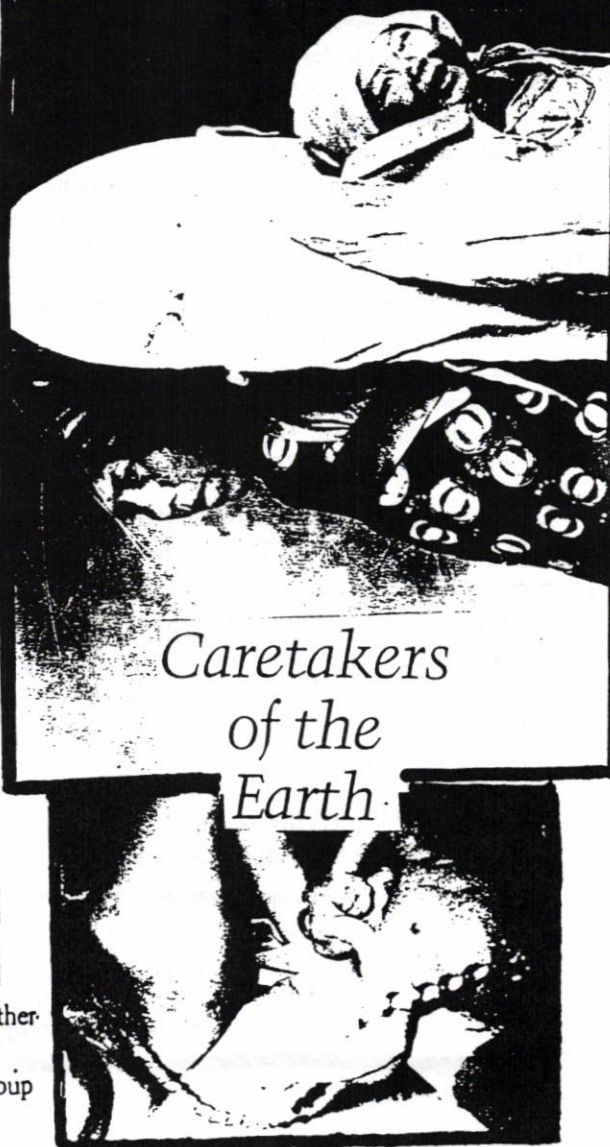
Psychologists often regard the universal myth of the Golden Age as a symbol of childhood. Yet when Plato wrote of the Golden Age, he apparently took some details from matriarchal societies familiar to the Greeks as either contemporary or belonging to the recent past. He said there was "no wildness nor eating of each other, nor any war, nor revolt amongst them. . . . like the Dobu Islanders regarded motherhood as the only possible antidote to warfare. Mutual trust was maintained exclusively among members of a matrilineal kinship group known as "mother's milk."

Fig 21

## Life Cycles: Conscious Birthing, Living, and Dying

### WOMAN'S SPIRITUALITY

is a world-wide  
awakening of womanpower  
whose vision is the  
transformation of our selves and  
our societies



Caretakers  
of the  
Earth



<sup>76</sup> Societies where women set the standards of behavior and morality were found generally kinder than male-dominated societies. Children grew up without harsh punishments, expecting kindness from others as a matter of course and consequently developing into nonhostile, nonviolent adults. Envy, greed, and exploitiveness were minimal; depression almost unknown; crime almost unheard-of. People were generally good-humored, trustful, and confident. Women were treated as the equals of men. Attitudes toward sexuality tended to be positive and permissive. People seemed to feel sure Mother Nature would provide for their needs, even in cases where a harsh environment demanded hard work for the sake of survival.

An Ethiopian woman expressed the basic psychological attitude of ~~thier~~ mothers:

- *How can a man know what a woman's life is? . . . The man spends a night by a woman and goes away. His life and body are always the same. The woman conceives. As a mother she is another person from the woman without child. She carries the fruit of the night nine months long in her body. Something grows. Something grows into her life that never again departs from it. She is a mother. She is and remains a mother even though her child die, though all her children die. For at one time she carried the child under her heart. And it does not go out of her heart ever again. Not even when it is dead. All this the man does not know; he knows nothing. He does not know the difference before love and after love, before motherhood and after motherhood. He can know nothing. Only a woman can know that and speak of that. That is why we won't be told what to do by our husbands.*

Egyptian men were awed by maternal behavior patterns, wondering why women did what they did to maintain the race. Maxims written about 1500 B.C. said:

*Thou shalt never forget thy mother and what she has done for thee. . . . For she carried thee long beneath her heart as a heavy burden, and after thy months were accomplished she bore thee. Three long years she carried thee upon her shoulder and gave thee her breast to thy mouth, and as thy size increased her heart never once allowed her to say, "Why should I do this?"*<sup>18</sup>

Egyptian scriptures emphasized the honor due "thy mother, who bore thee with much suffering. She placed thee in the Chamber of Instruction that thou mightest acquire instruction in books. She was unremitting in her care for thee, and had loaves and beer for thee in her house. When thou art grown . . . cast thine eyes upon her that gave thee birth and provided all good things for thee, thy mother. Let her never reproach thee."

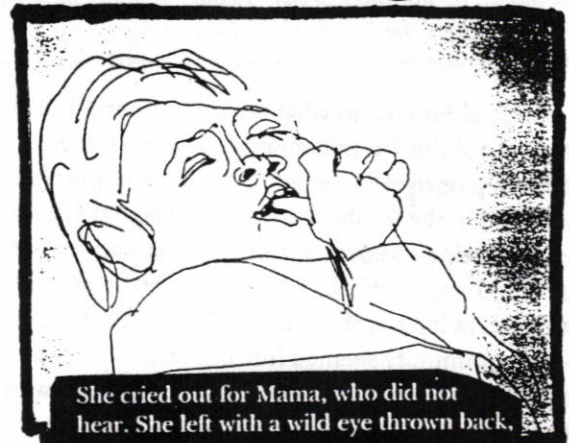
Societies dominated by men tended to introduce cruel punishments, hostility toward the young, formalized rivalry, and sadistic elements replacing easy, affectionate sexuality.

*"I grew up in fear—first of a father and the village chief, then a husband and son. Now I fear no one."*

**LIBERATION**

## Healing

B22



She cried out for Mama, who did not hear. She left with a wild eye thrown back, she left with curses, rage that withered her features to a hag's. No one can tell a mother how to act: there are no laws when laws are broken, no names to call upon. Some say there's nourishment for pain and call it Philosophy. That's for the birds, culture and hawk, the large ones who praise the miracle of flight because they use it so diligently. She left us singing in the field, oblivious to all but the ache of our own bent backs.

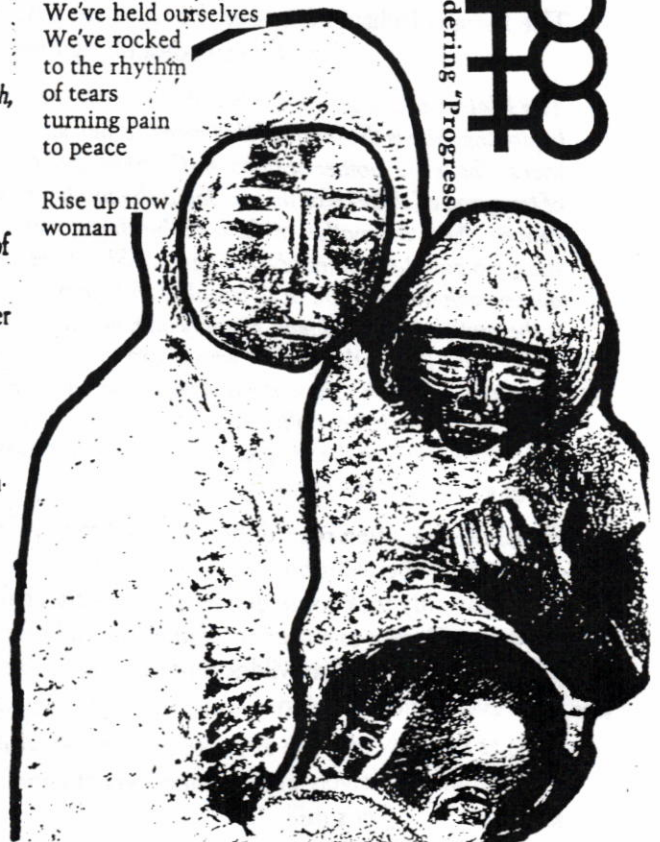
## Caring

Reconsidering "Progress"



We've cried  
We've held ourselves  
We've rocked  
to the rhythm  
of tears  
turning pain  
to peace

Rise up now  
woman





Hindu scriptures say the Goddess invented alphabets, pictographs, mandalas and other magical signs, hence her title of Samjna (sign, name, image). The Brahmapurana says under another of her titles, Savitri, the Goddess gave birth to the Vedas, the rhythms of the Ragas, day and night, the year, the month, the seasons, the inch, the second, and all other units of measurement; also logic, grammar, the days of the week, Time, Death, Nourishment, Memory, Victory, religious rituals, the trinity of aeons, and all the gods.<sup>45</sup>

As Great Mother Kali Ma, she wore on her necklace of skulls the sacred Sanskrit letters, which she invented, and invested with such magic power that she could create things simply by pronouncing their names in this language.<sup>46</sup> The notion led to the Neoplatonic, and later Christian, concept of the Creative Word or Logos.

Sanskrit *matra*, like the Greek *meter*, meant both "mother" and "measurement." Mathematics is, by derivation, "mother-wisdom." Root words for motherhood produced many words for calculation: metric, mensuration, mete, mens, mark, mentality; geo-metry, trigono-metry, hydro-metry, etc. Women did temporal and spatial calculations for so long that, according to the Vayu Purana, men once thought women were able to give birth because they had superior skill in measuring and figuring. Men imagined that if they could master these feminine skills, they could give birth, too. "Male ancestors" told one another that if they could only learn to measure the earth, they would "happily create progeny."

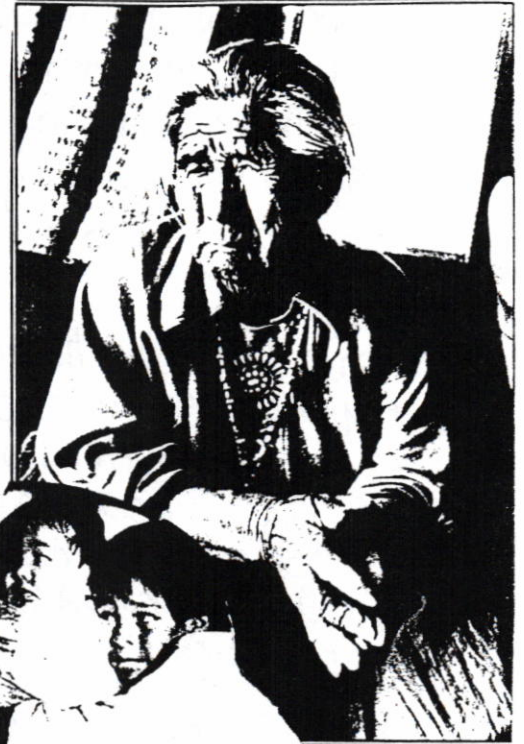
In the Middle East also, numbers and letters were inventions of the Goddess and the special concern of her priestesses. Ashurbanipal proudly declared that he was the first Babylonian king to learn "the noble art of tablet-writing," which belonged to the special scribes called *maryanu*.<sup>48</sup> A similar Egyptian word for a scribe was *Maryen* or *Mahir*, "great one" or "mother."<sup>49</sup> No one was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies in Babylon's municipal temple except women who had given birth; thus it seems likely that the *maryanu* were originally mothers, dedicated to the Semitic Goddess Mari-Anna, otherwise known as *Ishtar*.<sup>50</sup> Among the Hittites, priestesses known as *Elderly Women* taught the art of writing, kept records, advised kings, and practiced medicine.<sup>51</sup> The Triple Goddess of Fate was incarnate in three Gulses or "writers," corresponding to the Germanic Fates called *Die Schreiberinnen*, the Writing-Women, and the Roman mother of destiny *Fata Scribunda*, "the Fate who writes."

The descending order of beings began with "Goddess and gods, women and men."<sup>21</sup> By Babylonian law, "any sin against the mother, any repudiation against the mother was punished by banishment from the community." The Lycians too kept track of female ancestors only. Heraclides Ponticus said of them, "From of old they have been ruled by the women."<sup>22</sup> Phoenicians wrote of recent past when people didn't know their fathers, but took the names of their mothers.<sup>23</sup> Buddha reached back to basic maternal imagery in his Discourse on Universal Love: "As a mother, even at the risk of her own life, protects and loves her child, her only child, so let a man cultivate love without measure toward the whole world, above, below, and around, unstinted, unmixed with any feeling of differing or opposing interests. . . . This state of mind is the best in the world."<sup>108</sup>

But no man could achieve it without Motherhood as a model.

\*Big Mountain is the name of one section of the area affected by P.L. 93-531, which is the Joint Use Land Area of the Diné and Hopi Reservations. The name, Big Mountain, has become associated with the struggle in this area, but actually Big Mountain is only part of the area under dispute.

pg 23



Irene Yazzie, blind medicine woman. "I refuse to talk about relocation. For me it does not exist." Tees-ya-toe.



Pauline Whitesinger, with her daughter and grandchild in front of a summer house. She tried to run down a fencing crew with her truck when they attempted to fence off part of her land. Big Mountain.

Peabody Coal; want Thier land so they are taking it. Relocation is the continuation of Genocide. Relocation means "To move away, to disappear, to never be seen again" - Pauline Whitesinger

FOR MORE INFO WRITE:  
BIG MOUNTAIN LEGAL OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1509, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA 86002.

answer to a white questioner who couldn't understand the Indian reverence for women, one Indian man said, "Of course the men follow the wishes of the women: they are our mothers."

THIS IS HAPPENING NOW

In



# DON'T SAY; DON'T CRY

(24)

So often I've heard in "quick, reactionary, nurturing to the sound of a child's exclamation of pain, fear, frustration . . . . ."

"There, There don't cry, pat, pat, pat ← (ACTION WITH HAND)"

"Cryings not going to get you anywhere; you'll be fine!"

"Don't cry, hey do you want some juice, hey look at this (wiggling of a toy)."

So often I've heard in quick reactionary defense to a child trying desperately to get attention in a world bigger than they are . . . . .

"Stop crying; you're embarrassing me!"

"Big boys, don't cry!"; "You want to be a big boy don't you?"

"Shut up and don't cry, don't you dare cry!"

So often I've heard in quick reactionary anger to a child's outcry of unfairness . . . . .

"Stop that crying; or I'll give you something to cry about!" followed by the hollow sound of skin on skin (as if knocking the shit out of a small person crying is going to stop the natural flow of tears and loud squeals of pain and terror) are we under some grand illusion that a happy, healthy child doesn't cry? Crying is healing; Crying is expression the first one we know how to use. So early on we begin to shut down



Babies enter the world already knowing how to cry.

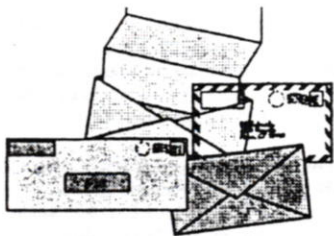
our child's natural ability to heal, just idly (or angrily) repeating what has been told to us over and over again; when we were small! We are taking the humaness out of our children making them cute-obedient dolls, well-behaved NOT well adjusted, real, healthy human beings.

When we allow our children to cry, they get rid of terror and anger, shame; They bounce back happily ready to again face the challenge that caused the crying to begin with. We are NOT making our boy children tougher or stronger when we convince them not to cry; Just the opposite is taking place and we are teaching them to hide how they feel (this is very confusing to a

boy's identity and confidence in himself) BOYS DO CRY, YES, THEY CRY A LOT AND LOUD! Give your child a chance to cry, you will notice change in them don't shame them or push them away, or put them in another room, this only tells "the crying is bad"; IT IS NOT!

It is true that all adults cringe at the loud sound of a child's crying MY CHILD'S EMOTIONAL STABILITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT JUDGEMENT. TAKE them outside, in a safe place hold them solidly close and let them cry, don't make them feel guilty for acting like and being kids with voices and emotions. YOU'LL FIND WHEN THEY ARE YOU CAN TALK AND Reason together. They are then more able to listen. Tell them all the things <sup>they</sup> they need to know but **DON'T SAY, DON'T CRY !!!!!!!!!!!**





## no justice for women and children in the courts

My name is Dolores Markee. I am 35 year old mother of two writing this letter from prison. The following is a brief synopsis of the circumstances that brought me here.

On January 6, 1993, I killed the sexual molester (George Paouris) of my daughter then age 3. Ten months later, I was tried, convicted and sentenced to 58 years in the Texas Department of Corrections. I had never been in any kind of trouble with the law prior to this in my entire life. I was charged with murder for the shooting of my daughter's sexually abusive father. I am not just another convict asking to be released; the circumstances surrounding my deed, are anything but typical.

I married George Paouris, precedent, in 1984. George was in the Greek Navy. During our marriage, we lived in several places in the United States and then moved to Greece.

George's behavior deteriorated with heavy drinking, verbal abuse, and jealousy. I returned to the United States, in ill health, to await the birth of our daughter, Raquel. George came to visit in the United States for a few days for the birth of Raquel. He refused to pay the hospital for her birth. I was unable to return to Greece due to my son's father (from my first marriage) prevailing in a court hearing, that required me to remain in Texas with my son, or relinquish custody of him. George wanted me to leave the USA with my son, new baby, and return to Greece. I chose to follow the law of the courts.

After two years, without sending any support, George returned to the United States after being terminated from the Greek Navy. He expected our marriage to pick up where he had left it. Our marriage deteriorated as George became more and more obsessive, and mentally and physically abusive to our daughter Raquel. After many incidents, we separated in November 1990.

George and I divorced in March 1991, with me receiving full custody of Raquel. In May 1991, at the end of one of my daughter's visits with George, I

discovered evidence of sexual abuse. I observed my child (32 months old) "touching" herself in a sensuous and seductive manner. My daughter told me that "daddy showed her how to do that." Raquel also told me that her "daddy" had "kissed" her "all over" her body, including her word for her "private parts" and her bottom. I took my child to the hospital and they reported the incident to the police department. My daughter and I were referred to Child Protective Services, and the District Attorney's Office.

I was advised to withhold visitation to protect my child. Subsequently, George filed for reinstatement of visitation. The District Attorney's Office decided not to proceed with the case involving the May 1991 allegations because my daughter was "not old enough to testify." I withdrew my sponsorship of his petition for citizenship.

George remarried in July 1991, one week before his time to be deported. Visitation by George resumed in September 1991, and I learned that the allegations of sexual abuse had been rejected by the District Attorney's Office.

The court ordered that George's visits be supervised by his spouse. When George had visitation in October 1991, my daughter once again described in tears how her father had sexually abused her. Again we went to the hospital. The doctor noted "swelling and irritation to vulva is consistent to sexual manipulation." The doctor continued, "Child states her father did it and that it happened before." I was instructed by the District Attorney's Office to withhold visitation, once again.

In November 1991, the court ordered visitation resumed but with supervision by an independent agency. The District Attorney's Office reviewed the case again and after the child had met with District Attorneys and District Attorney's Advocates, the case was presented to a grand jury for indictment.

George was indicted on 16 counts of aggravated sexual assault of our daughter Raquel. After he was indicted,

he filed to change custody, at the advice of his attorneys, "A good defense is a strong offense."

Incredibly, in July 1992, I lost custody of Raquel to her abusive father, George. Judge Carlton Spears said, in his opinion, the sexual abuse did not occur, and because George was "just under indictment" that could not be used against him. The Assistant District Attorneys were not allowed to testify on my behalf due to the pending criminal charges against George.

The District Attorney's Office reviewed the transcripts of Judge Carlton Spears' decision, and did not change their opinion regarding the strength of their case against George. However after George got custody of Raquel her whole personality started to change and she would not talk to the District Attorneys about the sexual abuse even after repeated efforts by the District Attorney's Office.



On January 6, 1993, Raquel and I met with the District Attorney. I was informed that the State could not proceed with the case against George because Raquel was, "Afraid to talk."

Back at my home, Raquel told me that George had sexually abused her the previous night, "Daddy put his hand in my pajamas and I didn't like it." "Mommy, I couldn't breathe!" I was due to return my daughter to George that same evening.

After seeking all avenues to protect my daughter, with little to no success, confrontation with the abuser, George, was the only thing left. I went to question George about the abuse, taking a gun because of my fear of him. After a discussion with George outside his house with no results, I turned to leave.

Then George told me that he had "solved his immigration problems, the girl (Raquel) would live with him forever, the court was on his side and he could do what ever he wanted to her or me!" I knew what he meant and pulled the gun

from my pocket and fired hitting him nine times including the genitals. I waited for the police to arrive and told them over and over, "He molested my baby!"

This person was killed in a crime of passion. My efforts were to protect Raquel. George molested Raquel. He was going to do it again and again and there was nothing anyone was doing to stop him....

So why was I sentenced to fifty-eight years for protecting my daughter? My daughter, husband, family and I have asked this and many other questions. Perhaps it was due to me being a female Hispanic. Perhaps it was due to not accepting a 20 year plea-bargain offered by the State. Undoubtedly it was due to the motion *in limine* filed by the state that prevented my attorneys from questioning witnesses regarding their opinion whether George was the perpetrator of sexual abuse upon Raquel. The motion *in limine* prevents anything negative about the deceased being used in court.

The critical facts in issue: Had Raquel been sexually abused by George? Did I have reasonable belief at the time of the shooting, that Raquel had been sexually abused by George? Was Raquel in continuance of danger. Now, five years later, I still believe it, as does my daughter Raquel, and the rest of our family.

The jury never got to hear the child victim advocates and the three District Attorneys testify about their opinion that Raquel had been sexually abused by George.

The jury never got to hear my three sisters' testimony that corroborated the sexual abuse of Raquel.

The jury never got to hear my husband Richard Markee's testimony as evidence of the fact that Raquel was indeed sexually abused.

Additional proof of the child's sexual abuse, NOT provided to the jury, includes a police report by officer Peterson where Raquel told the officer that George had molested her.

The jury never got to hear my mother's testimony that she observed Raquel's red and irritated vaginal area, after visits with George. The child also spoke of "games" George played with her and described several incidents of sexual abuse by George after he had custody.

The medical sexual assault examinations were not presented to the jury. The examination on May 1991, indicates several abnormalities, including a thickened hymen and red area. Raquel also reported to medical personnel that George molested her.

The medical examination of

# SUPPORT & FREE DOLORES MARKEE



# IN TEXAS, WE'VE STARTED CRICKET FARM

It's time to start a Nation-wide  
Network of MOMS:

SO WE NEED PEOPLE  
BOTH PARENTS AND NON TO  
NETWORK WITH. - THE AUSTIN  
COMMUNITY HAS BEGUN TO TAKE  
SERIOUS STEPS TO CHANGE  
THINGS FOR MOMS + KIDS  
WE HAVE MANY IDEAS AND  
PROJECTS: WE ARE WANTING  
TO START A FREE SCHOOL  
BASED ON SELF-DIRECTED LEARN-  
ING: FOOD NOT BOMBS (WITH FOOD  
FROM OUR ORGANIC GARDEN) FOR MOMS  
OFFERING FREE NUTRITIONAL FOOD  
+ NUTRITIONAL INFO TO MOMS + KIDS  
ALONG WITH HYGIENE PRODUCTS  
AND NATURAL HEALING INFO: AN EMERGENCY FUND FOR SINGLE MOMS

PUPPET SHOWS FOR KIDS IN THE COMMUNITY + PUPPET MAKING - THROUGH  
IMAGERY + LAUGHTER KIDS CAN LEARN, CREATE, EXPRESS AND BUILD  
SELF ESTEEM!

.. RADICAL  
AN AUSTIN MOM + KIDS GATHERING - TO FIND OUT THE TRUE NEEDS OF MOMS  
+ KIDS TO PLAY - + LET OUR KIDS LEAD - COME TOGETHER FOR CHANGE!

THIS MAGAZINE IS ALSO CREATED TO BE A VOICE FOR MOTHERS, PLEASE  
CONTACT ME WITH ALL YOUR IDEAS, POETRY STORIES ART, KID ART  
ISSUES RANTS + RAVES - COPY THIS - PASS IT ON - WRITE ME NOW!  
OR CALL - I'M GOING TO TRY + FIGURE OUT HOW  
TO GET AN T-800 # BUT FOR NOW - ... It'll cost ya ->

## NO JUSTICE CONT...

Raquel on October 1991, indicates physical findings consistent with manipulation of the genital area, and that Raquel told medical personnel of oral-genital contact by George.

Surprisingly enough, people I never met, nor had met me, were allowed to testify that "I was untruthful" because George had told them so.

The prosecutor told the jury "you never heard any testimony from anyone, other than Dolores, that Raquel was molested." How could they? The state did not allow the testimony, by filing the motion *in limine*.

Was killing George a good thing? No! I tried for over eighteen months to get the "system" to help protect my daughter. Was letting George continue to molest Raquel a good thing? Absolutely No! If I did not protect my child from sexual abuse I would be no better than the sexual molester. The difference, I would have been prosecuted for child neglect.

Only in Texas can you ambush and kill someone for breaking your garage windows, or kill someone for trying to steal your pickup truck; but you cannot protect your child from sexual abuse.

Perhaps another reason I was sentenced to fifty-eight years, the media characterized that the sexual abuse, allegations arose "in the midst of a custody fight"; when in fact I had full custody of Raquel. The jury failed to consider I had no previous criminal record. The court's county psychiatrist, Dr. Sparks, gave his opinion that I was "not dangerous now or likely to be in the future."

I was prohibited from entering evidence whose facts would reveal my maternal instincts took over after the entire system failed to protect my daughter from George Paouris.

26  
While I have a loving and supportive husband, family and friends, it is crucial for a large number of citizens to help. You can help by your support and writing letters to:

Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Board of Pardons and Paroles  
PO Box 13401 Capital Station  
Austin, TX 78711-3401

Office of the Governor  
George W. Bush  
Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Write your letters asking, demanding, however you want to state it, to let Dolores Markee out of prison on parole. Please send copies of your letters to me at the address below. If you know others interested in helping, whether financially, writing letters, helping "ghost write" a book of the entire story, writing press releases to media nation wide, listing my need for help on the Internet, we welcome their participation and support. Only with your help will my family be restored. Our goal is to get nationwide support from diverse communities, that believe our children are the most precious resources, to be cherished and protected.

We as "non-abusive" parents must show that it is *not* okay to harm our innocent children, that there *is* a difference between a cold hearted senseless killer and desperate mother who is left not other course. Your heartfelt support will make a difference and be deeply appreciated. God bless you and keep your family safe always.

Sincerely,

dolores markee  
#650407

1916 N. Highway, 36 Bypass  
Gatesville, TX 76599-0001

## WRITE AND DEMAND JUSTICE



# CRICKET FARM - MISSION STATEMENT (27)

CRICKET FARM is a home. It is a place where moms and kids live, and it is also a community resource center for artist and activist moms, kids, and their allies. It is a support community where moms and kids can explore their struggles and discover their voices.

We, ~~as~~ women and mothers, recognize the need to acknowledge and empower the emotional and practical elements of activism and collectivism in order to create a safe space for raising children while addressing the politics of parent/child oppression.

Our goal is to maintain a space where the consensus process is used in decision-making, and the mediation process is utilized to resolve conflicts. We are trying to create viable solutions to the logistical and emotional struggles of radical parenting in our society.

CRICKET FARM is political. It is direct action. Nothing can be more direct than taking on the responsibility of raising the next generation, and putting thought and action into every element of a child's life. We recognize the activism of every mother who voices dissent in society, and who makes her own choices about her children.

We are activists, actively raising children.

CRICKET FARM is educational. Our three oldest children are four years old. We are educating ourselves about home-schooling. We are setting up an information resource center to empower mothers and others to confront the isolation which exists for parents and kids not only in society at large, but within our own communities as well. There is a space for other traveling activists to pass through - offer support - and learn firsthand about the daily work of raising children, as well as the politics behind parent/child oppression.

CRICKET FARM is artistic. Giant puppets honoring the women and children of Chiapas and Sierra Blanca were birthed here. The Radical Mother's Voice is published here. The Mom's Music Conference will be held here in March 19-22, 1998.

Contact us for info on ongoing art, music + organic farming workshops.

Write or call: **CRICKET FARM c/o Sherry Milam**  
DUE TO LACK OF

ROUTE 1, Box 750 J

ELGIN, TEXAS 78621

(512) 469-0778 OR (512) 303-9224

↓  
This one is  
sometimes  
disconnected

MOMOMOM







GOOD  
DICTIONARY

IS THIS THE WISH-PHONE?  
STUFF  
DONATED OR CHEAP!

(28)

DONATED OR CHEAP!

FOR THE KIDS:

- CLOTHES (0-6 years)
- BOOKS
- GAMES/TOYS.

TRAVERS  
COME VISIT

MUCHAS  
GRACIAS

DOLLARS  
FOR THE  
PHONE  
BILL!

FOR THE RESOURCE CENTER & LIBRARY:

- INFORMATION ABOUT PARENTING, HOMESCHOOLING, ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE => HERB-BOOKS, NETWORKS, ORG. GARDENING, SOLAR-ELECTRIC, STREET-THEATRE etc. ALL INFO. OF SUBVERSION

FOR THE  
OFFICE:

- ANSWERING-MACHINE
- MACINTOSH PRINTER
- e-mail-MODUM
- COPY CARDS
- STAMPS
- FILE-CABINET

FOR  
THE HOUSE:

- HAMMER & TOOLS
- KITCHEN-STUFF
- TOWELS
- SHEETS
- BLANKETS
- WINDOWS

FOR  
THE HUGE  
ORGANIC  
GARDEN:

- YOUNG PLANTS - LIKE FLOWERS VEGGIES HERBS GREENS VINES
- SEEDS
- GARDEN TOOLS
- MOON-CALENDAR

FOR  
ART-  
PROJECTS:

- FABRICS
- PAINTS
- BRUSHES
- COLORED TILES & GLAS (ALSO PIECES)





# Back Page: A POEM FOR STRONG WOMEN

A strong woman is a woman who is straining.  
A strong woman is a woman standing  
on tiptoe and lifting a barbell  
while trying to sing Boris Godunov.  
A strong woman is a woman at work  
cleaning out the cesspool of the ages,  
and while she shovels, she talks about  
how she doesn't mind crying, it opens  
the ducts of the eyes, and throwing up  
develops the stomach muscles, and  
she goes on shoveling with tears  
in her nose.



A strong woman is a woman in whose head  
a voice is repeating, I told you so,  
ugly, bad girl, bitch, nag, shrill, witch,  
ballbuster, nobody will ever love you back,  
why aren't you feminine, why aren't  
you soft, why aren't you quiet, why  
aren't you dead?



A strong woman is a woman determined  
to do something others are determined  
not be done. She is pushing up on the bottom  
of a lead coffin lid. She is trying to raise  
a manhole cover with her head, she is trying  
to butt her way through a steel wall.  
Her head hurts. People waiting for the hole  
to be made say, hurry, you're so strong.



A strong woman is a woman bleeding  
inside. A strong woman is a woman making  
herself strong every morning while her teeth  
loosen and her back throbs. Every baby,  
a tooth, midwives used to say, and now  
every battle a scar. A strong woman  
is a mass of scar tissue that aches  
when it rains and wounds that bleed  
when you bump them and memories that get up  
in the night and pace in boots to and fro.

A strong woman is a woman who craves love  
like oxygen or she turns blue choking.  
A strong woman is a woman who loves  
strongly and weeps strongly and is strongly  
terrified and has strong needs. A strong woman is strong  
in words, in action, in connection, in feeling;  
she is not strong as a stone but as a wolf  
suckling her young. Strength is not in her, but she  
enacts it as the wind fills a sail.



What comforts her is others loving  
her equally for the strength and for the weakne.  
from which it issues, lightning from a cloud.  
Lightning stuns. In rain, the clouds disperse.  
Only water of connection remains,  
flowing through us. Strong is what we make  
each other. Until we are all strong together,  
a strong woman is a woman strongly afraid.

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN



# DON'T GIVE UP







The New Mothers.

# CONTACT

THE RADICAL MOTHERS  
VOICE

c/o Sherry Milam  
@ CRICKET FARM  
RT. 1 BOX 750 J  
ELGIN TX. 78621

This phone  
is sometimes  
dis-connected  
DUE TO LACK  
O'FUNDS →

(512)-469-0778 MESSAGE PHONE (512) 303-9224

osherry@rocketmail.com